

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING BRITTANI ACUFF IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Brittani Acuff is a philanthropist, creator, storyteller and most importantly, an ally. In 2010, Brittani left Central Florida to attend the University of Mississippi where she studied broadcast journalism and theatre arts. At Ole Miss, Brittani was a lead anchor and reporter for Newswatch99. She was ranked in the Top Four Feature Reporters in the Southeastern Journalism Conference's Best of the South, beating out reporters from over 30 colleges.

As a reporter, she learned the value of relationships and branding, and transitioned to working in public and community relations. In 2014, she returned to Orlando and immediately plugged back into Orlando's charitable scene.

Brittani is the community relations and events manager at one of Central Florida's leading LGBTQ+ and Allied Healthcare Centers, serves on the onePulse Foundation's Memorial Task Force and the Orlando Youth Empowerment Summit Steering Committee, is an ally on Congressman DARREN SOTO's LGBTQ+ roundtable, is the marketing chair for the Provisional Class of the Junior League of Greater Orlando, and hosts and plans shows at New York Fashion Week. Her past community involvement also includes Dance, Dream and Inspire for Community Based Care of Central Florida, volunteering with Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Central Florida and being chair of the opening reception committee for the United States Conference on AIDS. In 2020, Brittani was named one of Orlando Magazine's Women of the Year.

Brittani broke the mold in the pageant industry by starting at age 25 and doing it her way. Brittani served as Miss Orange County USA, Miss Orange County Galaxy and Miss Southern States Galaxy. At Galaxy Internationals, Brittani was the only American to place in the Top 5 in her division and is the current reigning Orange County's Perfect Miss. In 2019, Brittani was named "The Most Influential Person in Pageantry" by Art&Beauty Magazine.

For this and more, we honor Ms. Acuff.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA HELICOPTER NOISE INFORMATION EXCHANGE ACT OF 2021

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Washington, DC Area Helicopter

Noise Information Exchange Act of 2021, which would require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to implement a Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendation to create a mechanism to exchange information about helicopter noise in the Washington, DC area between FAA and helicopter operators. I am pleased that Representatives GERALD E. CONNOLLY and DONALD S. BEYER, Jr. from Virginia and Representatives JAMIE RASKIN, ANTHONY G. BROWN and DAVID J. TRONE from Maryland join me in introducing this bill, underscoring its regional importance.

Residents of the District of Columbia and the national capital region (NCR) have been plagued by helicopter noise for years. Yet, there is no centralized complaint system nor any comprehensive data about helicopter noise in the NCR. In January 2019, Representatives CONNOLLY, BEYER, RASKIN, BROWN, TRONE and I wrote GAO requesting that it conduct a study of helicopter noise in the NCR. In that letter, we wrote, "Many of our constituents live with the impacts of regular helicopter noise that interrupts sleep patterns, causes their homes to shake and negatively impacts their quality of life. While disturbances from helicopter noise have been a longstanding problem for some, others have noted recent increases in the frequency and severity of helicopter noise in their neighborhoods. We understand that helicopter activity is an essential part of law enforcement, military and medical operations and appreciate the critical efforts of employees serving in those sectors. However, we also believe that, through information collection, analysis and coordination, we can identify strategies to minimize the negative impacts of helicopter activity without impeding the work of the agencies operating helicopters within the region."

In response to our request, GAO announced in June 2019 that it would conduct the study. GAO released its report in January 2021. GAO found that FAA's current ability to work with helicopter operators in the NCR is limited because of the absence of effective information sharing mechanisms. GAO recommended that FAA direct its Office of Environment and Energy to develop a mechanism to exchange helicopter noise information with operators in the NCR. FAA concurred with GAO's recommendation, but this bill would require FAA to develop such a mechanism.

This bill would direct the creation of a more effective information sharing mechanism, which would also allow for better, more comprehensive data on helicopter noise complaints. This data would in turn help us develop solutions to address helicopter noise.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF HERMON RUDOLPH NETHERLAND

#### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Hermon Rudolph Netherland, who passed away on Friday, March 19, 2021, at the age of 94. Hermon was a U.S. Navy World War II veteran, longtime resident of Tyler County, and deeply respected by all who knew him.

Hermon was born on April 21, 1926, in Enterprise, Louisiana, to Anne and Neal Netherland. At a young age, his family moved to Port Arthur, where he was raised. Like many kids of his generation, Hermon worked from an early age. His family had a large garden and they grew an assortment of fruits and vegetables from bell peppers to cantaloupes. Hermon had the responsibility of tending the garden. His duties included hoeing, watering, and picking the vegetables. At the onset of WWII, Hermon felt led to serve his country and wanted to enlist. However, Hermon's father was against this decision, fearing his 15-year-old son would go to war. After spending the next year convincing his father, Hermon was finally allowed to enlist in the Navy.

After completing Basic Training in San Diego, California, and signal school in Chicago, Illinois, Hermon enrolled in underwater demolition training at Fort Pierce in Florida. He soon qualified as both a Navy signal man and frog man, (someone who assisted with underwater demolitions). After a deployment in Newport, Rhode Island, Hermon went on to participate in nearly every major campaign in the Pacific Theater. Throughout the war, he would be based on the USS *Birgit*, a troop transport and cargo ship. His duties would rotate between signalman, frog man, and manning a landing craft taking troops to shore on several of the most dangerous invasion campaigns. Hermon was present for the U.S. invasion of Guam, Sai Pan, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, the Philippines, and the Marshall Islands. While in the Philippines, Hermon and fellow Navy frogmen were tasked with helping to open the Straits of Hormuz.

The USS *Birgit* returned to America after the war via the Panama Canal. Conveniently, its final stop was the Port of Orange, where the ship was then decommissioned and sold. Essentially, the ship he had spent the entirety of the war on, traveling across the Pacific Ocean, delivered Hermon to his own front door. Shortly after returning home, Hermon met Velma, the love of his life. They were married soon after she completed high school. They were blessed with 64 years of marriage and a wonderful baby girl. Following his time in the military, Hermon went to work for Texaco in Port Arthur and retired from there after many years of service. During his retirement, Hermon enjoyed spending time at his cabin located on Lake Amanda in Colmesneil to hunt and fish.

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